

CORURGAN COMMENT



**Circ. No 05 - 2026
May 2026**

Sadly, a past WCPID Director has passed away.

Welcome to the May 2026 Corurgan Comment Newsletter.

April was another dry month. I only measured 20mm at the Corowa Pump site for April. However, I did measure 25mm at the Corowa Pump site, 16mm at the Berrigan Office and received reports of 38mm at Oaklands on Monday morning 4th May, which was very welcome. I turned the Corowa pumps off on Saturday 2nd May. The Channel Attendants will drain the system down now, so that winter works can commence, if you notice any works that need to be done please ring your Channel Attendant or myself.

I have attached the NSW DCCEEW water allocation forecast for 2026/27 irrigation season. The forecast is for a zero opening Allocation based on predicted low inflows to our catchment area. This is only a predicted forecast and should only be used as a guide, but it does indicate that we could be heading towards similar dry conditions that were experienced from 2018 through to 2020.

Allocation Announcement – Year to Date – 22% @ 01.05.2026

July – 1%	January – 0%
August – 2%	February – 0%
September – 7%	March - 0%
October – 8%	April - 2%
November -2%	May – 0%
December – 0%	

Water Pumped

August – 1382 ML

September – 4475 ML

October – 6447 ML

November – 2602ML

December – 4721ML

January – 6390ML

February – 4426ML

March – 3223ML

April – 4884ML

May – 172ML – Up to the pumps being shut off on Sat 02.05.2026. **TOTAL PUMPED: 38,722ML**

Current Dam Levels

Dartmouth Dam – 65%

Hume Dam – 21%

As always, if you notice any maintenance works that need to be taken care of, please contact your Channel Attendant.

Peter Hamilton

Office Administration

Invoicing

- The May Stock & Domestic invoicing has been reconciled, and invoices will be raised and sent out by 8th May.
- Outstanding Debtors are looking good. Not fantastic, but good! Thank you!

Keeping the outstanding invoices to a bare minimum allows West Corurgan to budget accordingly and saves time and 'awkwardness' chasing money. Hopefully, all outstanding gone by 30 June.

If you have missed making a payment and you receive a 'Friendly Reminder' email, please receive it with good grace and try to pay promptly.

Office

- I will be on leave Thursday & Friday 7 & 8 May – Debbie.
- Peter Hamilton will be on leave Thurs, Friday and Monday 14, 15 & 18 May.
- The Auditors will visit the office on Thursday 21 May.

We have already scanned a 'truck' load of information the auditor requested, so I am expecting the 21st to run smoothly.

Early Reminder: The **AGM** will be on **TUESDAY 25 AUGUST** – 5:00pm. Oaklands RSL Bowling Club.

- We had major computer issues from 4:00pm Thursday 30.04.2026 until 1:00pm, Sunday 03.05.2026.

Not our fault.

The provider for our internet/website had their own server issues, which impacted ALL their clients. Being totally out of action at the end of the month was not ideal and Jasmeen was also sick on the same Thursday and Friday.

Requiring a two-factor security authorisation code, with the code sent via email, is all very well, until you don't have any emails, so cannot obtain the code, so cannot log in to your accounting system. Grrrr. Never mind. We managed to catchup on some invoicing before Monday and things are on track now.

I apologise for not sending out an email and/or SMS to all Members advising of Peter's intention to shut off the pumps on Saturday 2nd May. We would normally do this, but we simply were not able to. I know the Water Bailiffs had been advising their landholders, but we still like to confirm in 'writing', so to speak.

- Staff Performance Reviews were conducted on 05.05.2026 and we are all still employed, so that is good! 😊

On serious note, it does provide an opportunity for staff to have their say on anything, so that is a positive, and the Chair and Deputy Chair listen willingly.



Sincere Condolences

They say bad news comes in three's.... I sincerely hope not. Sadly, Peter Kerr has passed away.

Peter died Saturday 25th April after a short stay in hospital.

His funeral was held 4th May.

Peter and his family were stalwarts of our West Corurgan community, as too are the extended Kerr family.

Peter Kerr was a Director on the West Corurgan Board from 1979 to 1994.

A true supporter of West Corurgan.

His son Ben has been employed as a Water Bailiff with West Corurgan since 2011.



Our Deepest Condolences to Peter's wife Joanie and four children, Jason, Jarrod, Rachel and Ben. Our thoughts also extend to the wider Kerr family within West Corurgan.

Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) – Water Markets Reform.

As I mentioned in the April Corugan Comment Newsletter, *under the Water Market Reform Regulations, West Corugan is required to provide specific information from our Member Database to the BOM. That exact information required is not yet known but should be available by the end of April.*

Unfortunately, that exact information has still not been finalised.....'soon' we have been told.

West Corugan has offered to be a 'test' organisation during the 2026-2027 irrigation season.

The official recording commences 01.07.2027.

We do still expect that ABN's and the ACN and Registered Address for Companies will be required.

Our IT Software Designer for our Water Management System said she can add in new fields to suit the information required.

So, once we know EXACTLY the information required we will get that happening.

But I remind.....

Your support in providing the information required will be the key.

End of Season

Final readings to 30 April have been read, totals processed and April ML usage invoices emailed out. For most Members, this will be your final reading.

A few Members continued irrigating into May, as the pumps were not turned off until 6:00am Saturday 2nd May and water continued to be drained down for a few days, so was able to be used.

Water Trades in April 2026

Dry weather in April meant some Members needed to buy water, both internally and externally.

In **April 2026**, the office processed (ie: finalised):

Internal Trades - 7

External IN Trades - 5

External OUT Trades - 0

The Board also transferred and traded Carryover Space and sold some water Below the Choke.

PERMANENT WATER FOR SALE

Three WCPID Members have permanent water to sell.

All three are supportive of West Corugan and are looking to sell within the Scheme.

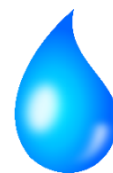
650 Water Entitlements.

200 Water Entitlements.

150 Water Entitlements with Delivery Entitlements.

Will sell in smaller parcels.

If genuinely interested, please contact the Office.



PS: I have a 'bone-to-pick' with everyone!! 😊

How come no-one told me I had spelt PERMANENT incorrectly in the above heading for the past **7-months!!** Especially once I kept repeating the same mistake. I first listed 650ML for sale in October 2025..... with the word PERMANENT spelt incorrectly. Even when I added to the box, I still didn't pick it up.

Unbelievable.

I think you were just being polite.



Three people read the Corugan Comment before it goes out and we still have errors.

Just goes to show that what our eyes see and what our brain reads are two different things.

LET'S BE HAPPY..... 😊

No theme this month, just random happy thoughts.

What room is not needed in a ghost's house?
The living room.



Did you hear about the two silkworms that had a race?
It ended in a tie.



By the way, how did you go with those extra Easter kilojoules?
I will never look at little Gold Lindt Bunny the same way again.
2272kJ, 33g of fat and 49g of sugar!

Maybe, it was a good thing that the April Corurgan Comment was sent out after Easter.

To put our little indulgent Bunny in perspective.....

A slice of pavlova with fruit and cream topping has 272 calories.... **1139kJ**
15.2g of fat and 29.6g of sugar.



Oh. The injustice of life!

Sadly, I am not on the same wavelength as the Boss Lady of Farm (150).
She eats cooked vegetables for breakfast!!

For Breakfast!
Give me a break!

Bet she didn't eat a Little Gold Bunny over Easter!



Happy Mother's Day on Sunday 10th.



Whilst the West Corurgan Newsletter is primarily provided to keep Members informed of all water matters relating to the WCPID Scheme, you will note it also has a lighter side. It is this lighter side that should be read in the spirit for which it is intended and with 'tongue firmly planted in one's cheek'! 😊 Debbie

Outlook for 2026–27

A water availability outlook for the start of the next water year (1 July 2026) is provided below. The outlook is indicative only, not guaranteed, and should be used with caution, particularly when projecting many months ahead. Nevertheless, it aims to help water users with their end of year water management decisions.

Indicative allocations on 1 July 2026 for the 2026–27 water year – Lower Darling

- The Menindee Lakes System is around 34% full, holding some 592 GL as of 14 April 2026. About 224 GL of this volume is stored in Lake Cawndilla.
- The Menindee resource is currently shared with other states, under the Murray Darling Basin Agreement, as the system is holding more than 480 GL.
- Full (100%) allocation can be expected for all higher priority entitlements in 2026–27, including local water utility, domestic and stock and high security access licences.
- Full allocations (100%) for supplementary access licences can be expected and is available subject to announced periods of supplementary access.
- We are closely monitoring the resources and operational conditions, including the delivery constraints from Lake Cawndilla to the Lower Darling when the upper and lower lakes are no longer connected. It is currently anticipated that opening allocations for general security access licences will be low.

Indicative allocations on 1 July 2026 for the 2026–27 water year – NSW Murray

- Full (100%) allocation can be expected for local water utility and domestic and stock access licences, as well as sub-category high security entitlements.
- High security (excluding sub-categories) users can expect their full opening allocation of 97%.
- Conveyance is expected to be allocated in accordance with the plan rules.
- The average general security balance is currently 26%, though individual balances may vary. Individuals can carryover their closing balances up to 50% of their entitlement.
- **The current assessment is predicting no opening allocation for general security water users.** The allocation will be subject to inflow and losses to 30 June 2026 and any forfeiture of allocated water on 1 July 2026.
- The current Barmah-Millewa Environmental Water Allowance account balance is approximately 172 GL, which is currently borrowed to support 2025–26 general security allocations. In accordance with the water sharing plan, the balance will remain fully borrowed on 1 July 2026, with resource improvements providing payback before general security allocations can exceed 30%.

- Full opening allocations (100%) for supplementary access licence holders can be expected and is available subject to announced periods of supplementary access.

Chances of Improvement

The chances of NSW Murray general security allocations, against repeat of historical inflows, are provided in the table below. The simulation is based on a design water use pattern with no consideration of current weather conditions. Accordingly, the results are indicative only, not guaranteed, and should be used with caution.

Simulated general security allocations (%)

Repeat of historical inflow conditions	1 September 2026	1 November 2026
Pre 2004 minimum	0%	0%
Very dry (90% exceedance)	0%	5%
Dry (75% exceedance)	5%	20%
Median (50% exceedance)	15%	30%

Note 1: Forecast incorporates Murrumbidgee regulated end of system flows.

Note 2: Any water carried into 2026–27 water year is to be added to these indicative allocations with individual accounts not exceeding 110%.

River Murray weekly report (for the week ending 8 April 2026)

- Releases from the Menindee Lakes System continue to support demands in the lower Darling and the River Murray system whilst managing water quality risks upstream of Weir 32.
- The flow to South Australia decreased target flow rate of 9,600 ML/day to 9,200 ML/day.
- The release from Yarrowonga Weir decreased from 6,000 ML/day to 5,000 ML/day and will remain at this rate in the coming week.
- The MDBA has released its end-October update to the Annual Operating Outlook: [River Murray System Annual Operating Outlook | Murray-Darling Basin Authority](#)

Water sharing plan rules (NSW Murray)

This statement includes plain language information on the plan rules relevant to water allocation below. This is based on our knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. Water users should verify the information as required before making any water management decision.

- Domestic and stock, local water utility, and high security sub-category access licences are to receive an allocation of 100% of their share component at the start of the water year. These licences cannot carry over unused balances into the next water year.

- High security access licences are to receive full allocation of 97% at the start of the water year and cannot carry over any unused balances into the next water year. If general security licences are allocated 97% or more, high security must be increased to 100% of their entitlement.
- Conveyance access licences receive an allocation of 50% after all higher priority categories have been fully allocated and cannot carry over any unused balances into the next water year. These licences are allocated incrementally based on GS allocations.
- General security access licences are to receive allocations after all higher priority categories have been fully allocated, and the conveyance licences have received their 50% allocation. GS accounts can carry over up to 50% of entitlement into the next water year and have a limit of 110% of entitlement.
- Planned environmental water allowances include the Barmah-Millewa Allowance, the Murray Additional Allowance, the River Murray Increased Flows.
- Supplementary water access licences are to receive an allocation of 100% of entitlement at the start of the water year, unless a growth-in-use measure is required. The closing balance cannot be carried over into the next water year.

Useful links

- Water allocation guide – We published a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for these water sources are available at the following link: [Resource assessment process | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation statement – The water allocation statement for all water sources is available at the following link: [Water allocation statements | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation dashboard – The dashboard on water availability and allocations for regulated river water sources is available at the following link: [Allocations dashboard | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water sharing plan – The water sharing plan for these water sources is available at the following link: [Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers Water Sources 2016](#)

Further information

The next water allocation statement for these water sources will be published on **Friday 1 May 2026 at 2:30 pm.**